



THE BEAT

This publication is provided by the [Governor's Office of Indian Affairs](#) and the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#). The Beat provides updates, announcements and articles relevant to Indian Country in Montana. Current and archived issues can be found on the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#) website. Questions? Email Billie Rusek at brusek@mt.gov or Heather Sobrepeña-George at hsobrepena@mt.gov

MONTANA TRIBAL NEWS:

NEW SMALL BUSINESSES ON THE RISE

By The Associated Press, Billings Gazette 07/24/08

HELENA - Secretary of State Brad Johnson says the number of new small businesses in Montana continues to grow.

FAMILY OF RELEASED INMATE SUES BIA

By Billings Gazette News Services 07/24/08

GREAT FALLS - The family of a Browning man who froze to death in February 2007 is suing the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the federal government for \$20 million.

1960'S CONSTITUTION UNDER REVIEW

By Bonnie Red Elk, Fort Peck Journal 07/10/2008

The first Constitutional Convention on the Fort Peck Reservation in 48 years – for sure to go down in history - is still taking place this week on the campus of the Tribes' college in Poplar. It has brought together a diverse group of over 50 tribal members who have been and are addressing a wide variety of issues - such as putting judges and chief prosecutor on the ballot, changing the terms of the Tribes elected officials to 4-year staggered terms, to a total separation of powers into 4 divisions that includes one for a

General Council, to changing the name of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes to the Nakoda and Dakota Nations, and to protect the culture and native harvest areas of tribal members - and more, much more.

STEERING COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT ON NEED FOR ANOTHER GROCERY STORE IN CUT BANK

Contributed by Mike Koepke, Glacier Reporter 07/23/08

Cut Bank Development Corporation (CBDC) is focusing its energies on finding out the wants and needs of area residents through a grocery store survey it developed. The survey has been published in the Rural Montana magazine, the Cut Bank Pioneer Press and now CBDC is asking area businesses to help distribute and collect the grocery store surveys.

SOLUTIONS SOUGHT FOR CRIME ON RESERVATIONS

By Faith Bremner • Tribune Washington Bureau • 7/24/08

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of senators, including Democrats Max Baucus and Jon Tester of Montana, introduced legislation Wednesday that seeks to strengthen public safety on the nation's 400 Indian reservations.

AMERICAN INDIAN JUDICIAL REFORM BILL DISCUSSED IN SENATE COMMITTEE

By [Devin Montgomery](#) Jurist Legal News 07/24/08

The US [Senate Indian Affairs Committee](#) [official website] on Thursday held [hearings](#) [RM Video; hearing [materials](#)] on a bill designed to give Native American courts and law enforcement broader authority to combat violent and sex-related crimes. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and 12 co-sponsors introduced the [Tribal Law and Order Act](#) [press release] on Wednesday. If passed, the bill would give American Indian courts authority to impose stricter sentences, expand the courts' jurisdiction to cover more non-Indian suspects, and provide for additional law enforcement training and federal cooperation in addressing the crimes.

CONGRESS OKS \$2B AID FOR RESERVATIONS

FAITH BREMNER • Argus Leader Washington Bureau • July 25, 2008

WASHINGTON - A plan to spend an additional \$2 billion over the next five years to battle youth gangs and drugs on Indian reservations and improve tribal drinking water systems and health care programs received House approval Thursday and is on its way to President Bush for his signature.

GRAND OPENING FOR CASINO TODAY

Billings Gazette 07/24/08

FORT BELKNAP — The Fort Belknap Casino will hold its grand opening today in conjunction with the Milk River Indian Days, which begins Friday and runs through Sunday.

STANDING ARROW POWWOW WAS JUST RIGHT

By B.L. Azure Char-Koosta News 07/24/08



Arlee Celebration Young Warrior Isiah Russell (center) joined in on an intertribal dance at the Standing Arrow Powwow. (B.L. Azure photo)

ELMO — The 19th annual Standing Arrow Powwow over the weekend had the feel of a just-the-right-size tribal celebration. It wasn't too big and it wasn't too small - it was just right.

BAUCUS LOOKS TO BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Washington, DC – Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) on Tuesday convened a hearing to review tax policy specifically designed to promote economic development in Indian country, and to hear from witnesses what additional proposals could boost Indian economies. Baucus asked witnesses from the Native American community about the challenges they face in using tax-exempt bonds, accelerated depreciation for businesses in Native American communities, and the Indian Employment Tax Credit, and what Congress can do to make the policies more useful.

KNOWING YOUR CUSTOMER

American Indian Report 07/24/08

Indian Country casinos know just as well as any Las Vegas property what it takes to lure

gamblers, the low rollers and high rollers, and keep them coming back. Sure, they have got the splashy gaming floors and resort amenities, but they also have mastered delivering Strip-style customer services: keeping in touch with their players, offering targeted deals and treating them like kings while they're there.

INDIAN HEALTH AGENCY LOST MILLIONS, GAO SAYS

By Mary Clare Jalonick (AP) Independent Record 07/22/08
WASHINGTON— The Indian Health Service has lost at least \$15.8 million worth of equipment and later falsified documents to cover up some of those losses, according to congressional investigators.

BAN ON NON-INDIAN HUNTING ON RESERVATION UPHELD ON APPEAL

By Matthew Brown (AP) Independent Record 07/23/08
BILLINGS — A federal appeals court has affirmed a Montana regulation that bans non-Indians from big game hunting within American Indian reservations, even if the land is privately owned.

FOR TRIBES ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEETING ADAM WALSH/SORNA REQUIREMENTS

The SMART Office promised to release a checklist states could use to plan for implementation of the Adam Walsh Act and to submit their documentation for substantial compliance. That [checklist](#) is now available on the [SMART Office website](#).

JOB VACANCIES:

AUDIT QUALITY CONTROL REVIEWER, POSITION #61166273, State of Montana, Department of Administration, Helena. Salary \$33,852 to \$47,000 DOQ. This position reviews audits of local Montana governments and designs/implements policies ensuring local government audits are conducting according to standards. Application deadline: Wednesday August 6, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. For a complete vacancy announcement contact our website at http://statejobs.mt.gov/pls/mjs/MJS0110W.QueryView?P_E_MPR_ID_SEQ=48576&P_JORD_APPL_SEQ=359

CONTRACT MANAGER (ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST)

Position Number: 65166451 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Location Division: Housing Bureau: Tenant Based Section 8 Date Posted: 7/24/2008 Job Category: Business and Financial Operations: HELENA Job Status: Full Time Permanent Salary:\$28,139.00 to \$35,174.00 Salary Unit: Year Additional Salary Info: Salary dependent on education and job related experience. EXCELLENT BENEFITS. In addition to salary a typical compensation package includes 15 vacation days, 12 sick days, 10 paid holidays, \$7080/year for health insurance and approximately 7% for retirement. Shift: Daytime Band or Grade:5 Closing Date: 08/15/2008 Supplement Required: No
http://statejobs.mt.gov/pls/mjs/MJS0110W.QueryView?P_E_MPR_ID_SEQ=1634&P_JORD_APPL_SEQ=1286

CIVIL ENGINEERING SPECIALIST Position #54192438 | Department of Transportation Band: 5 | Lewistown | Open until filled. Lead Worker on a crew that oversees construction of highway projects by contractors. Duties include survey layout, culvert, slope and sign staking; materials testing; inspection of materials and work performed by contractors; and contract administration. Reports directly to the Engineering Project Manager. For a detailed job description and to apply, please see us at www.mdt.mt.gov

POTLATCH FUND BOARD SEEKS THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Potlatch Fund is seeking three new members to join its Board. The three new members will be appointed by the existing twelve-member Board to serve for terms of three years (the terms will expire at the Annual Meeting to be held in September 2011).

Potlatch Fund is a native led organization that seeks to increase philanthropy within Northwest Indian country. The Fund operates in the four state region of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and **Montana**.

Potlatch Fund has been operating since 2002 and has achieved considerable success and growth since that time. It now has a staff of five, and an annual budget of approximately \$700,000. It operates from leased office space in the downtown area of Seattle.

Ideally the three new Board Members to be appointed by Potlatch Fund will have the following skills and attributes:

- Have extensive knowledge of the non-profit sector, the funding sectors (including the philanthropic and/or the gaming sectors), community development and Indian Country.

- Have professional experience in one or more of the above areas.

- Be an enrolled member of an American Indian/Alaskan Native Tribe.

- Have leadership and/or extensive professional experience with a Northwest Native Tribe.

- Reside within the Board's four State region. It is noted that the Board currently has no current representation from Idaho and would welcome nominees from this area.

- Have an understanding of the issues that arise when dealing with diverse communities which can include diversity due to ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, economic means.

- The ability to generate support in Indian country in support of Potlatch Fund's mission and its activities.

This is a volunteer position, however reasonable out of pocket expenses can be met. The Potlatch Fund Board meets quarterly, with members often joining by telephone conference. Other meetings may be required from time to time as needs dictate.

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This is an opportunity for appropriate individuals to help the Potlatch Fund achieve that next layer of success. Nominations can be sent on a confidential basis to Ken Gordon, Executive Director, Potlatch Fund, 801 Second Avenue, Suite 304, Seattle, WA 98104. Mr Gordon can also be contacted directly on 206 595 2450 if you wish to discuss the role.

EVENTS/TRAINING:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL CONFERENCE (Sept. 9-10, 2008)

The first day of the conference focuses on strategic planning for economic development. The second day has three full-day concurrent sessions. We highly recommend your attendance at the concurrent session entitled "Nation Building: Leadership, Governance & Economic Policy". The session will be presented and facilitated by Dr. Manley Begay, Jr., who brings much experience and credibility to this topic. A copy of the agenda is included below.

It will be extremely valuable for tribal chairpersons and council members with responsibility for economic development to attend this session. We ask you to pass on this information and the registration link in this message to your chairpersons, council members, and other persons who would have an interest in attending the conference. Please forward this message as soon as possible so that those who wish to come will be able to register and make their travel arrangements.

EDA Conference agenda and registration information:
<http://quest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,M3,8517f624-c73a-480c-b674-2308892cd6e7>

MUSEUM OF PLAINS INDIAN OFFERS MUSEUM GAME COLLECTIONS YOUTH EXPERIENCE DAY CAMP 08/04- 08/08

The Friends of the Museum of Plains Indian, a non-profit organization, will offer a one week "Museum Game Collections Youth Experience Day Camp" August 4 to 8, 2008, at the Museum of the Plains Indian in Browning. The camp is being offered to middle and high school students. The program is sponsored by a grant from the Montana Office of Public Instruction Indian Education for All program and the Montana Historical Society to the Friends group, and the camp is also supported by the Traditional Games Society.

Camp instructors include Dr. Lynne Spriggs, art historian and Blackfeet art expert; David Dragonfly, Blackfeet-Assiniboine artist and acting Museum Curator; Richard Horn, Blackfeet culture and traditional games expert; and Lorrie Tatsey, Browning High School Blackfeet Native American Studies teacher.

The museum experience week offers youth options for "credit recovery" or "community service," credit through Browning High School, and/or certification as traditional games youth instructor from the Traditional Games Society.

The sixteen youth chosen for the program will learn the history, purposes, and care of museum collections as well as information about careers in museums. They will examine artifacts of traditional games, learning about materials used in the crafting. They will gather and craft replicas of the

museum's game pieces, then learn to play the games. Students will be required to be at the Museum Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily to complete the program. Lunch will be available each day.

Blackfeet tools and technology will be emphasized throughout the week, covering time periods from the last Ice Age through the horse culture period to the present time.

Students from seventh grade through high school may apply by contacting Lorrie Tatsey at 338-2057 or Richard Horn at 338-5919. Application forms can be obtained at the front desk of the Museum of the Plains Indian, junction of Highways 2 and 89, Browning (338-2230).

UPCOMING POTLATCH FUND TRAININGS

July 24 – 25th, Missoula, MT: Financial Management for Nonprofits
August 12 - 14th, Blackfeet (MT): Journey to Successful Fundraising and Board Training
August 28 - 29th, Kalispell (WA): Journey to Successful Fundraising (*new date*)

Please contact Justin Finkbonner (justin@potlatchfund.org) for more details regarding any of the above trainings.

GRANTS/OPPORTUNITIES:

MONTANA'S CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS PROGRAM

Life here can test the human spirit, but we Montanans have found many ways to express our relationship with the land. Something in Montana's landscape nudges, pushes, and even shoves the creative spirit.

Born deep in that landscape, folk/traditional arts spring from the needs of a community. While having a use, the work of the quilter, the saddlemaker, the ironworker, the parfleche maker, and the potter also are visible evidence of who we are. Because these artists are just around the corner or down the road, they often are over-looked, even "hidden in plain view."

Montana's Circle of American Masters is an ongoing program, and nominations are accepted year round. Visit the MAC website (www.art.mt.gov) for information and nomination forms. To nominate someone you know, call **Cindy Kittredge**, *Folk Arts and Market Specialist* at (406) 468-4078, or **Dyani Bingham**, *Indian Arts Market Development Manager* at (406) 545-8983.

Visit www.art.mt.gov for information about the artwork by Montana's American Masters.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS (5311(C))

SAFETEA-LU created a new Tribal Transit Program, and funds it as a takedown under the Section 5311 program. Under the Tribal Transit Program, Federally-recognized Indian tribes are eligible direct recipients. Based upon an annual national competitive selection process conducted by FTA, FTA awards Tribal Transit grants directly to eligible Indian tribes.

Recipients of Tribal Transit Program may use these funds for any purpose that is eligible under Section 5311. Eligible purposes under Section 5311 include planning, capital and

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operating assistance for rural public transit services, and support for rural intercity bus service.

Regional Contact Information:

12300 West Dakota Ave. Suite 310
Lakewood, CO 80228-2583
Telephone: 720-963-3300
Fax: 720-963-3333

Appropriation: Funded under Formula Grants

Description: The goals of the Tribal Transit Program: 1) to enhance the access of public transportation on and around Indian reservations in nonurbanized areas to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services, and recreation; 2) to assist in the maintenance, development, improvement, and use of public transportation systems in rural and small urban areas; 3) to encourage and facilitate the most efficient use of all Federal funds used to provide passenger transportation in nonurbanized areas through the coordination of programs and services; and 5) to provide for the participation of private transportation providers in nonurbanized transportation to the maximum extent feasible.

Statutory Reference: 49USC5311(c)

Eligible Recipients: Only Federally-recognized tribes are eligible recipients under the Tribal Transit Program. However, tribes which are not federally recognized remain eligible to apply to the State as a subrecipient for funding under the State's apportionment.

Eligible Purposes: Funds may be used for capital, operating, planning and administrative purposes.

Allocation of Funding: Based upon an annual national competitive selection process conducted by FTA, FTA awards Tribal Transit grants directly to eligible Indian tribes.

Match: no matching requirements

Funding Availability: Year appropriated plus two years (total of three years).

For More Information Contact: The Office of Program Management, (202) 366-4020



Inspired by Our Lands *Made by Our Hands*

Montana's Circle of American Masters

Information and nomination forms at www.art.mt.gov



To celebrate Montana's heritage and showcase the folk arts, the Montana Arts Council announces *Montana's Circle of American Masters* in the Folk and Traditional Arts. This program recognizes Montana folk artists for artistic excellence in their work, along with their help in preserving the state's cultural heritage.

Current members of *Montana's Circle of American Masters*:

Jackie Larson Bread (Great Falls), beadwork artist

Edward Caffrey (Great Falls), bladesmith

Richard Charlson (Carter), wood artist

Al Chandler Goodstrike (Hays), traditional hide artist

Judith McKenzie McCuin (Augusta), spinner and dyer

Jessie Clemens (Polson), fingerweaver

Judy Ericksen (Great Falls), potter

Sylvia Overby (Plentywood), hardanger embroidery

Artwork pictured:

Painted buffalo hide box by Al Chandler Goodstrike, blade by Edward Caffrey, beadwork by Jackie Larson Bread, and wooden bowl by Richard Charlson.

WESTAF



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To nominate someone you know, call **Cindy Kittredge**, Folk Arts and Market Specialist at **(406) 468-4078**, or **Dyani Bingham**, Indian Arts Market Development Manager at **(406) 545-8983**.

Or use the space below to send us the name and contact information of the artist, and we will call them.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Art Form: _____

Visit **www.art.mt.gov** for information about the artwork by Montana's American Masters.